

The Insider



KHAN LAB SCHOOL

2024-25 Issue

Featured In Our Summer Issue

Thank You, Donors — your support shapes our future

10 Years of Growth and Community — and what's next

Updates — stories of impact and achievement



A Decade of Growth, and a Future Full of Possibility



What started as a bold vision at Khan Lab School for mastery-based learning has evolved into a dynamic, learner-centered environment where students are empowered to lead, explore, and connect. As we celebrate our first decade, we're deeply grateful for the community that's grown with us.

This year, we saw countless moments that reminded us why this work matters—student-led projects, cross-age collaboration, and real-world learning. Our students embodied the KLS mission with heart and purpose.

To celebrate, we're excited to introduce [The Insider](#), our new bi-annual digital newsletter. Rather than a full recap, it's a curated snapshot of the year, focusing on key themes like student agency, community, and hands-on learning.

Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome sixth grade to the Mountain View campus and continue our long-term campus planning. We remain committed to supporting our educators, strengthening our programs, and growing with intention.

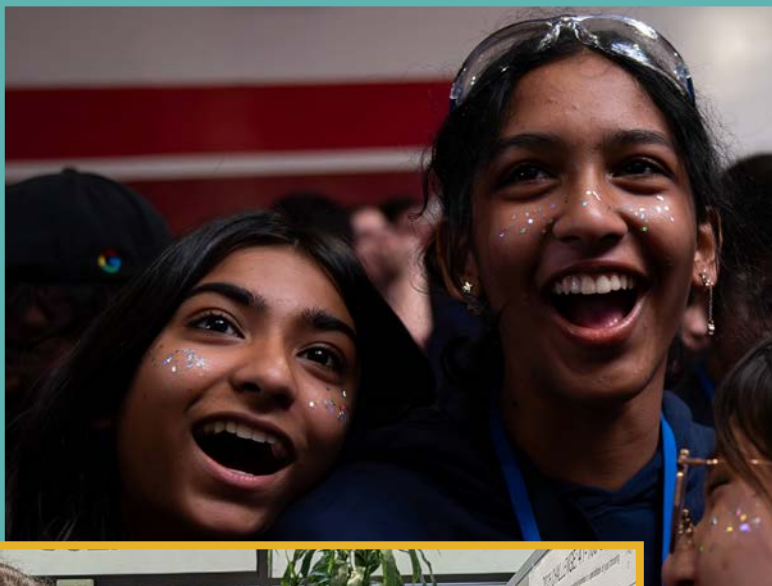
Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. We hope [The Insider](#) offers a meaningful look at what your partnership makes possible.

Warmly,
Kim Dow
Executive Director



Students challenge their minds and each other with math games

Lower school students dive into creative projects



Sharing a moment of joy with friends



Students share ideas and solve problems side by side



Exploring wind erosion in our Science mini lab



Learning extends beyond the classroom through **outdoor education** and **cultural and historical trips**. Our robotics team fosters **collaboration**, while Intersession week offers **hands-on learning**. These experiences bring lessons to life, **sparking curiosity** and empowering students to apply their knowledge.

Theme

Learning In Action

Bringing Learning to Life

At Khan Lab School, learning extends far beyond the classroom. Through immersive travel experiences, live performances, and hands-on outdoor education, our students engage deeply with academic content while gaining confidence and building meaningful connections with their peers, their communities, and the wider world.

One powerful example of this approach was our recent Lower School outdoor education trip to [Camp Campbell](#). Students unplugged from technology and classroom structure and immersed themselves in nature. Through hiking, team-building challenges and reflective journaling, they practiced collaboration, leadership and independence, some of them spending nights away from their parents for the first time. The experience not only deepened their understanding of the natural world but also fostered personal growth, resilience, and a stronger sense of community with their classmates.

In the middle of attending a live performance of [Hamilton](#) offered a powerful fusion of history, music, and storytelling. The experience brought classroom learning to life while sparking rich conversations about U.S. history, creative expression, and the impact of diverse voices in shaping our nation's story.

This past Spring, Upper School students travelled to [Spain](#). They explored cultural landmarks, practiced conversational Spanish, and reflected daily on what they learned. The trip deepened their global perspective while strengthening their independence and cultural appreciation.



Sixth graders spent the week at YMCA Camp Campbell, exploring nature, building friendships, and diving into hands-on science in the great outdoors!



Middle School students visited the Orpheum Theater in San Francisco to see the always amazing musical Hamilton. The group loved the experience and had a great time. Special thanks to Alex Adler for organizing the trip!



Middle School students had a fantastic time exploring the California Academy of Sciences. From the rainforest dome to the aquarium and natural history exhibits, there was so much to discover and learn. The visit sparked curiosity, inspired questions, and gave students a chance to connect what they're learning in class to the real world.

Washington D.C.

Our Middle School students recently returned from an impactful trip to Washington, D.C. and Virginia—an unforgettable experience that brought American history to life through immersive, real-world learning. From exploring the early settlements at Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg to debating evidence in a mock colonial trial, students stepped directly into the stories they’ve been studying all year. They met with historical interpreters, tried their hand at 18th-century trades, and gained a tangible sense of how our country was built—physically, politically, and ideologically.

In D.C., they visited the Capitol, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress, engaging with the very documents and institutions that shape our democracy. At the Smithsonian museums, students chose between the Air and Space or Natural History Museum, then regrouped at the American History Museum where pop culture artifacts like the Star-Spangled Banner and Dorothy’s slippers connected them to a broader national narrative. A visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum became a powerful lesson in remembrance and empathy; our students’ thoughtful presence there was noted



by museum staff, standing in sharp contrast to other school groups and reflecting their deep maturity and understanding of the moment.

The trip concluded with visits to several key memorials—including Lincoln, MLK Jr., Vietnam, and the Korean War—where students reflected on how the past continues to inform our present. Many stood quietly at the Lincoln Memorial’s steps, taking in the weight of standing where Martin Luther King, Jr. once spoke. At the National Portrait Gallery, some even paused to sketch presidential portraits. On the final day, the group visited the African American Museum, a fitting end to a week that not only deepened their academic knowledge but also challenged them to consider the values, sacrifices, and stories that shape our national identity. This was more than a school trip—it was an experience they’ll carry with them long after graduation.

Natasha McKeown
Middle School Director





Spain

The Spain trip was an unforgettable educational journey that gave students the chance to apply what they've learned in deeply meaningful ways. From practicing conversational Spanish with local teens during a language exchange to exploring masterpieces like Picasso's *Guernica* and El Greco's *Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, students engaged directly with Spain's rich cultural and artistic legacy. They navigated Madrid's bustling metro system, learned to manage belongings responsibly in real-world settings, and experienced the vibrancy of Spanish life—from flamenco performances to tapas tastings in historic marketplaces.

In Toledo, students traced the city's layered history as the "City of Three Cultures," where Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions coexist in its architecture and stories. Visits to centuries-old synagogues, an awe-inspiring cathedral with ten pipe organs, and narrow, winding cobblestone streets offered not only lessons in history, but also in resilience—especially during a rainy walking tour that the group completed without complaint. A high-speed train ride to Sevilla added another

dimension, as students experienced modern transportation and prepared for a guided exploration of one of Spain's most storied cities.

What stood out most, however, was the students' personal growth. Many shared that using Spanish in real-life conversations was far more challenging than expected, but they were proud to have pushed through their discomfort to communicate authentically. Nearly every student expressed deep gratitude—not just for the opportunity to travel abroad, but for doing so alongside peers of different ages in a supportive and adventurous environment. The trip blended academic enrichment with real-world learning and will no doubt leave a lasting impact.

Spain Trip Chaperones:

Cristina Vázquez *Spanish Specialist*

Chi-Ray Chien *Head of Operations and Technology*

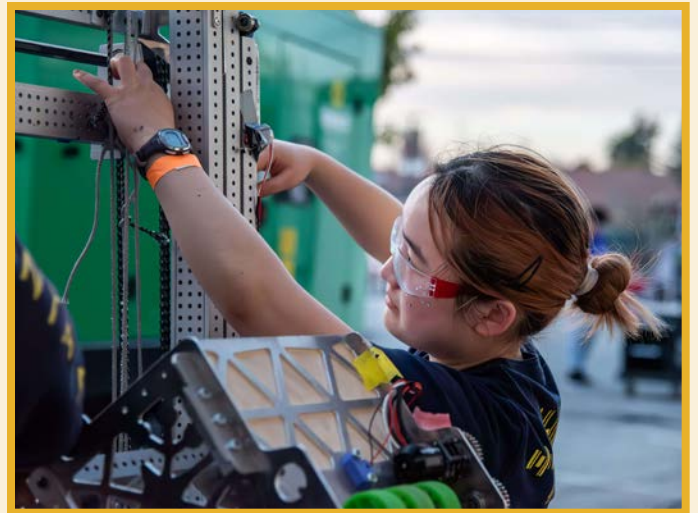




Robotics: A Season of Growth, Grit, and Innovation

Khan Lab School's robotics team, FRC Team 6962 "Antares," continued its rapid evolution in the 2025 season, building on last year's finalist appearance at the Monterey Bay Regional. Students took a more disciplined, engineering-focused approach to design, refining prototypes earlier and mastering tools like CAD, machining, and laser-cutting. Highlights included the team's first-ever use of an elevator mechanism and major contributions from newer members in designing key systems—even those not used in competition became valuable learning opportunities.

After a challenging showing at the Pinnacles Regional, the team responded with impressive resilience: rebuilding the entire robot in just five days. The rebuilt robot performed strongly, earning a spot in the elimination rounds and showing the kind of teamwork, technical skill, and determination that defines Antares.



Alongside technical achievements, students deepened their skills in leadership, project management, and collaboration. The program continues to be a launchpad for future innovators, with students leading every aspect of the work—from coding and fabrication to outreach and marketing—supported by mentors who guide rather than direct.

The heart of Antares is about more than robotics. As the team director says: "My goal is for Antares alums to be young adults that I would want to hire." Judging by this season and the team's alumni, that goal is well within reach.

Chi-Ray Chien
Lead Mentor

The Story of Intersession

Intersession is a week-long, student-driven experience where students step away from their regular academic schedule to dive into immersive, project-based learning centered around a common theme. Each division—Lower, Middle, and Upper School—focuses on its own unique theme, giving students the opportunity to explore real-world topics through hands-on activities, field trips, and collaboration. The week concludes with a student-led Community Showcase, where families come together to celebrate the creativity, learning, and impact sparked throughout the experience.

Lower School Intersession Recap

Intersession was a vibrant and inspiring display of our students' creativity, leadership, and compassion. Our K–2nd graders, led by our music teacher, performed a delightful ukulele piece that highlighted their enthusiasm and musical progress. Meanwhile, Kiara and Ronan's group of 3rd–6th graders crafted handmade dog treats and cat toys, selling them to raise funds for a local animal shelter—thank you to everyone who contributed to this heartfelt cause! Faith and Julia's group spent the week volunteering at the Ecumenical Hunger Program, launching a food drive to continue supporting the program's mission. We are incredibly proud of our students' hard work, empathy, and collaboration, and grateful to our parent community for making these initiatives possible.

Middle School Intersession Recap

The middle school's Manifesting Destiny exhibition was a dynamic showcase that blended humanities, Spanish, art, and music. Inspired by the historical idea of westward expansion, students reimagined this theme as a personal journey—exploring how we shape our identities, pursue



Lower School students volunteering at the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

our dreams, and navigate our own paths in life. Through writing, performance, and visual arts, students brought their reflections and creative visions to life. It was an inspiring display of how our students connect history and personal growth, highlighting their creativity and capacity for self-expression. This exhibition was a perfect example of the diverse talents and thoughtful exploration our middle schoolers bring to their learning.

Upper School Intersession Recap

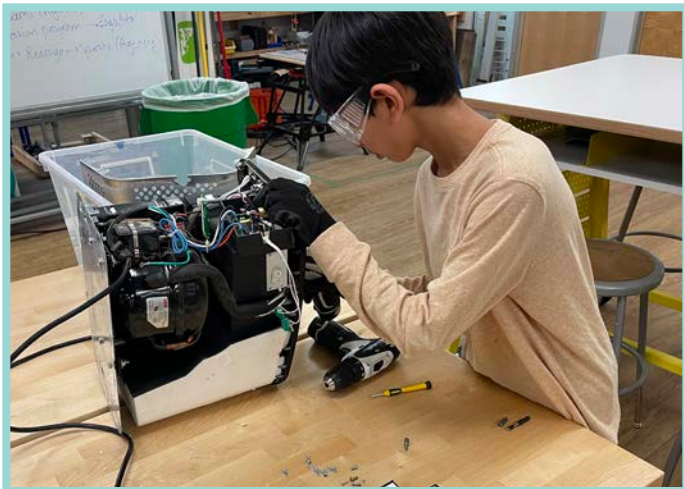
Upper School Intersession was focused on sustainability, challenging students to design and build a multifunctional planter that doubles as a seating area, using only reclaimed materials. Led by a team of juniors, the project was entirely student-driven, with the students taking the lead in organizing teams, managing daily progress, and collaborating with 9th and 10th graders to bring the vision to life. Intersession provided an opportunity for students to think critically and creatively about sustainability, while also honing valuable leadership and teamwork skills. The project was a powerful example of how our Upper School students apply their learning to tackle real-world challenges, demonstrating both their technical skills and commitment to making a positive impact.



New approaches to learning implemented at KLS this year, including how the school adapted and refined its model to **enhance student growth**, as well as **exciting classroom experiments**, creative **problem-solving challenges**, and innovative ways teachers brought **learning to life** across grade levels.

Theme

Curiosity at Work



A Year of Hands-On Discovery

This year, our students dove headfirst into creativity, experimentation, and real-world application—and the results have been nothing short of inspiring. One standout moment came when our iGEM team traveled all the way to Paris to compete in their very first international synthetic biology competition. Their project, focused on reducing methane emissions from landfills, earned them a silver medal and gave them the chance to collaborate with peers from around the world.

In the physics classroom, students brought theory to life by building full-scale trebuchets—yes, medieval-style launchers—putting their knowledge of angular momentum and mechanics to the test. Several students also stepped up to the $F=ma$ competition, the first step toward qualifying for the U.S. Physics Team, where they demonstrated advanced problem-solving skills under serious time pressure.

Our youngest learners are getting their own hands-on opportunities, too. A new parent-led makerspace initiative at the Lower School is giving students early exposure to design thinking, engineering, and imaginative exploration. And we're excited to share

that even more opportunities are on the horizon: next year, middle schoolers will have access to a brand-new Imagination Lab as part of their move to the second floor at the Villa campus, along with a dedicated after-school Engineering Club.

Meanwhile, the Innovation Hub has evolved into a true engine for student-led design and engineering. This year, students prototyped everything from trebuchets and bioengineering experiments to complex robotics builds, while learning to use tools like laser cutters, 3D printers, and CNC machines. The space has grown not just in equipment, but in independence: students now help train their peers, document their own projects, and lead initiatives like iGEM and robotics from concept to competition.

With a new middle school Imagination Lab on the horizon and a growing set of interdisciplinary projects across campus, the Innovation Hub is helping students turn their bold ideas into tangible, real-world outcomes, one build at a time.

Baxter Smith
Innovation Hub Director

Innovation Hub: Recent Achievements and New Developments

The Innovation Hub continues to grow as a space for creativity, hands-on learning, and future-ready skills. Here are a few highlights from this year—and a look ahead:

iGEM Team Success

iGEM Team Success: Our iGEM team earned a silver medal at their first international synthetic biology competition in Paris, presenting original research focused on reducing methane emissions from landfills.

Physics In Action

High school students designed and built full-scale trebuchets to apply physics concepts like angular momentum, force, and mechanics. The project combined hands-on building with real-world problem-solving and teamwork.

Lower School Makerspace

This year, Exploration Lab became part of our core schedule, offering hands-on learning in robotics, engineering, and design—building creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving in the Maker Space.

Imagination Lab

(Coming Soon!): As Middle School transitions to the second floor of the Villa campus, students will gain access to a brand-new Imagination Lab—an open, creative space where they can design, prototype, and bring their ideas to life through hands-on exploration.

Robotics

Students competed in two regional robotics events, gaining hands-on experience. Between competitions, they showed dedication by rebuilding their robot in five days, strengthening their engineering and problem-solving skills.

F=ma Physics Exam

Several students took the F=ma exam, the first step in qualifying for the U.S. Physics Team, demonstrating advanced problem-solving skills, deep intellectual curiosity, and a strong commitment to academic excellence.

Middle School Engineering Club

(Coming Soon!): Next year, we're launching an after-school Engineering Club to provide even more exciting opportunities for invention and hands-on problem-solving.

iHub Expansion

With new tools, upgraded spaces, and enhanced support for student-led projects, the iHub continues to serve as a dynamic center for innovation, collaboration, and hands-on learning across all grade levels.

Inside the Classroom

Student interests sparked curiosity and real-world learning, as classrooms came alive with experiences that encouraged collaboration and deeper thinking in math and science.



Lunchtime Math Hoops

A group of 3rd and 4th graders spent lunch breaks playing Math Hoops, a board game using real NBA and WNBA stats. Each week began with a player draft, followed by lively tournaments where students created strategies and house rules. The game offered meaningful math practice while also building empathy, teamwork, and shared excitement around learning.



Pokémon in Math

A schoolwide Pokémon craze sparked a creative math lesson in a 1st–3rd grade classroom, where students used card battles to practice triple-digit addition and subtraction. The activity turned shared interests into meaningful learning and brought energy and collaboration to core math skills.



Science of Ocean Movement

Sixth grade students explored the science behind ocean currents by conducting hands-on experiments that revealed how differences in the density of salt water and fresh water affect movement. Through this activity, they began to understand how these principles drive large-scale patterns in our oceans and influence global climate systems.



Valentine's Fibonacci

On Valentine's Day, students in Ronan's math classes stepped away from their usual work to explore the beauty of the Fibonacci sequence. They learned how this famous pattern appears in nature and used it as inspiration to create their own mathematical art, blending creativity with number sense in a fun and festive way.

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT



Julia Doscher, Lower School STEM

In Term 2, a campus-wide Pokémon craze inspired a student-led learning opportunity in our mixed-grade (1st–3rd) math class. Instead of just trading cards, students applied their enthusiasm to practice triple-digit addition and subtraction—key concepts in the 3rd grade curriculum. Zander, a 2nd grader and our resident Pokémon expert, took the lead by teaching a whole-class masterclass on Pokémon Battles. While two classmates battled, the rest calculated point totals and energy levels, turning play into meaningful, peer-supported math learning.



Nick Fera, Upper School Humanities

This year, students took the lead in storytelling across multiple projects. In one class, they launched Red String Studios, a student-run company creating original short stories set in a collaboratively built fantasy world, complete with departments for story, design, marketing, and web. Earlier, students designed and played a role-playing game based on *The Iliad*, and during our Sci-Fi unit, finalists from each section pitched original game concepts in a “Board” pitch event modeled on professional presentations. Students weren’t just analyzing stories—they were creating them.



Priyanka Reddy, Art Specialist

This year, KLS art students took on immersive projects that blended creativity with real-world themes. High schoolers explored folk art through mindfulness, launched a social awareness campaign on human impact on wildlife, and experimented with character design and AI to reimagine Hokusai’s Kanagawa Wave. Middle schoolers expanded their skills through pyrography, embroidery, flower pressing, and origami—some creating large-scale pieces for the first time—and even raised funds for a children’s hospital through an art-based fundraiser.



Wilson Turner, Middle School Science

In the Middle School, Wilson ran a CRISPR lab for his students where they performed real gene editing in class to reinforce the biological principles they learned all year. CRISPR is a cutting-edge tool that lets scientists make precise changes to DNA—the instruction manual for how living things grow and function. By working hands-on with this technology, students got a deeper understanding of genetics, how traits are passed on, and how modern science is being used to solve real-world problems.

Select Student and Team Highlights

Khan Lab School students achieved remarkable success across academics, competitions, and creative showcases this year. From groundbreaking research in synthetic biology to national recognition in speech and debate, and from inspiring artistic exhibitions to outstanding math competition performances, our students demonstrated curiosity, collaboration, and creativity. Here are some standout moments from this vibrant school year.



Elementary Team Shines in Girls' Math Competition

Several KLS teams participated in Girls' Adventures in Math (GAIM), a national competition that challenges girls with creative, collaborative math problems. Guided by Lower School STEM teachers Julia, Ruby, and Ronan, students tackled challenges with energy and teamwork.

All teams showed dedication and problem-solving skills, but one 3rd grade team stood out—placing in the top 20% nationwide. Their success reflected a love of learning, thoughtful questioning, and enthusiasm for exploring complex math concepts. This achievement highlights both their hard work and KLS's supportive, inquiry-based learning environment.



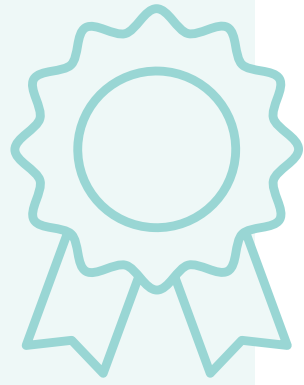
Speech & Debate Triumphs

In just its third year, the KLS Speech and Debate Team has grown from five students to a nationally recognized program, earning more than 20 awards at over 15 tournaments. Highlights included an undefeated preliminary run at the 2025 NSDA Nationals in World Schools Debate—becoming the only team to beat the eventual National Champions—and top finishes at Harvard, Berkeley, and the UK Tournament of Champions. The season concluded with national placements in Extemporaneous Speaking at both NIETOC and NCFL Grand Nationals, each with more than 1,600 entries. Congratulations to Vivek and Avery for their standout performances, and to the entire team for a season defined by excellence, leadership, and teamwork.



Isha's Cornerstone Spotlight

Isha's Cornerstone project brought new life to our campus with a stunning space-themed mural. Working with KLS leadership, the design features diverse silhouettes reaching for the stars—inspired by NASA imagery and symbolizing the curiosity, unity, and sense of belonging that define our community. The mural joins a proud tradition of community art that transforms spaces into expressions of our shared values.



We are proud to highlight the achievements of our students, including **college acceptances** and the inspiring **post-KLS pathways of our alumni**. We celebrate the journeys of those who have built on their KLS foundation, showcasing the **success** and **growth** they've achieved in their post-KLS endeavors.

Theme

Building Future Leaders



Bright Futures Ahead: College Destinations

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

They were accepted to 68 different colleges and universities across the country. This exceptional group of young people has found colleges that are excellent matches for their talents, strengths, and interests—and they're eager to take advantage of the many opportunities that await them beyond KLS.

Like the graduates before them, they will serve as wonderful ambassadors of the School and contribute meaningfully to their college communities in myriad ways. College admission officers praised the dynamic applications our students submitted, highlighting the depth of academic exploration and extracurricular involvement they demonstrated. Our seniors were thoughtful and effective self-advocates throughout the admission process, and the skills and knowledge they've built at KLS will no doubt serve them well.

Good luck, Class of 2025. We know you'll make us proud.

Barnard College

Cal Poly Pomona

Clark University

Columbia University

Emory University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Johns Hopkins University

New York University

Purdue University (2 students)

San José State University

Stanford University

University of Chicago (3 students)

University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign

University of Redlands

University of Southern California

University of Washington, Seattle

Alumni Spotlight

Where are they now? Our graduates share updates on their latest adventures, achievements, and impact.

Anjeli Mayoraz '21

Anjeli graduated from Harvey Mudd College with a joint major in Math and Computer Science, an emphasis in Data Science, and a Literature concentration. She'll spend the summer on independent research before starting a software engineering role at AWS in Seattle.

Ethan Chang '22

Ethan is studying nuclear engineering at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and conducting research in the field. He will use software tools to build the geometry for a prismatic nuclear reactor core and run simulations to study neutron behavior within the system.

Sophie Fan '22

Sophie is studying Mechanical Engineering at MIT and spending the summer interning at a clean energy company. She's eager to put her skills to use in a real-world setting and is passionate about creating sustainable solutions that make a positive impact.

Ameera Hoodbhoy '23

Ameera is continuing to study film production at Chapman University and recently worked as the sound editor on two major film projects. While the films haven't been released yet, Ameera is set to begin screening at several festivals soon.

Maddie Wang '23

Maddie is studying documentary and non-fiction filmmaking at Chapman University, where she works as an Admissions Ambassador and is training as a film school tour guide. She recently interned with producer Frank Marshall at Kennedy/Marshall Productions in LA.

Pooja Punnett '24

Pooja is adding a dual major in Philosophy to her studies at Claremont McKenna College. She's looking forward to broadening her academic perspective and diving deeper into new ways of thinking and understanding the world.

Laker Newhouse '21

Laker graduated from MIT with degrees in Math and AI, and a Master's in Engineering. He's advised khanacademyforukraine.org for the past two years. This summer, he'll be at Decart, then working with AI startups. Follow his journey at lakernewhouse.com.

Ainsel Fallon '22

Ainsel studies Architecture at UC Berkeley, where they're VP of the Cal Historic Preservation Club, works at the Environmental Design Archive, and volunteers. They've interned in Barcelona, worked at Matano Kang Architects, and will join Simpson Gumpertz & Heger this summer.

Jay Bhan '23

Jay is studying math and AI at MIT and will be interning at a startup called Eudia in the Bay Area. He's stayed connected to teaching through MIT's Global Teaching Labs, which gave him the opportunity to lead math classes Kazakhstan and Armenia.

Ryan Quinlivan '23

Ryan is studying at Rice University and will spend six weeks this summer in Rio de Janeiro as a strategy intern with PRIO, a leading Brazilian energy company. He's looking forward to gaining international experience and contributing to impactful projects in the energy sector.

Matthias Fallon '24

Matthias is studying at UCSD, double majoring in Chemistry and Japanese Studies while pursuing minors in Law & Society and Classical Studies. In December, he visited Jordan as the Assad regime collapsed next door in Syria, and he plans to travel to Berlin this July.



From the field to the court, our students showed up with **energy**, **teamwork**, and **determination**. This year's programs highlighted not just physical strength, but also **resilience**, **balance**, and the joy of **staying active together**.

Theme

Game On: Sports & Wellness

Athletics Highlights

Khan Lab School's Athletics program is thriving, with over 70 students in grades 6th–12th participating in a growing roster of interscholastic sports! This year saw the successful debut of three new teams: varsity boys' volleyball and both middle school and varsity track. Our athletes competed in ultimate frisbee, cross country, volleyball, basketball, and track & field — earning recognition for both skill and sportsmanship. Notably, our ultimate frisbee team earned the Team Spirit Award for the second consecutive year.

Participation grew across teams, especially among boys, and we're proud of the strong community, commitment, and character our student-athletes show. Coaches foster growth mindset, teamwork, and resilience, enriching students' school experience.

Our athlete profiles and interview with one of our coaches, gives you a firsthand look at the experiences and impact of KLS Athletics. These stories offer a glimpse into the growth, passion, and teamwork that make our program so special.

Plans for next year include expanding sports offerings to include soccer, flag football, and cricket, as well as launching new strategies to increase school spirit and event attendance—like live-streaming games through NFHS.

Morgan May

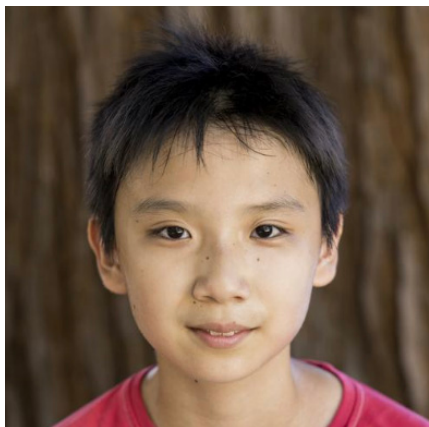
Director of Athletics



“Getting to work with both the girls and boys’ volleyball teams was truly one of the highlights of the past year for me. I was constantly impressed by the dedication, compassion, and unique strengths each player brought to their teams as we built KLS's volleyball program together. I'm looking forward to the 2025-2026 season and seeing all of our athletes' successes both on and off the court.”

—Jemma Fadum, boys' and girls' volleyball coach

Student Athlete Highlights



Yue Grade 8

One of KLS's newest students—Yue moved from China in 2024 and joined as an 8th grader. An avid sports fan and dedicated student-athlete, Yue quickly saw KLS Athletics as a way to connect with like-minded peers and build relationships through team sports. He joined the ultimate frisbee team in the fall, but his true passion is basketball. Last winter, he became a standout member of the Middle School boys' basketball team, making an immediate impact as a strong player, supportive teammate, and quiet leader. As Yue enters 9th grade, we're excited to see him contribute to the varsity boys' basketball team and continue growing as an athlete and teammate.

Samaira Grade 9

Samaira joined KLS as a 5th grader in 2020. Her kindhearted nature, positive attitude, and strong work ethic make her a valued member of our community—but it's her natural athleticism and incredible team spirit that have helped her make a lasting impact on KLS Athletics. An accomplished tennis player and martial artist outside of school, Samaira brought her competitiveness and discipline to the varsity girls' volleyball team as a freshman. Despite being new to the sport, she quickly took to the game, showing impressive skill from the start. She became one of the team leaders in aces and kills, and developed into a strong passer, making her a force on the court wherever she played. Samaira embodies everything we hope for in a KLS student-athlete—drive, commitment, and sportsmanship—and we're excited to see her continued leadership as a rising 10th grader this fall.



Tyler Grade 10

Tyler joined KLS as a 2nd grader in 2016 and has been learning and growing with the school ever since. Over the years, he's developed a wide range of talents both in and out of the classroom—he's an avid skier, water sports enthusiast, and a team leader in robotics. Known for his thoughtful and dedicated approach, Tyler sets a strong example for his peers.

As a key contributor to the varsity boys' basketball team for the past two years, he's shown tireless commitment to his teammates and a strong desire to improve—often the first on the court and the last to leave. This spring, he embraced the challenge of learning a new sport and became a founding member of the varsity boys' volleyball team. Tyler consistently represents himself, our school, and our athletic program with integrity and heart. We look forward to his continued leadership next year.

From familiar favorites to brand new celebrations, this year's events wove together the **traditions** we treasure with fresh moments of **connection** and **joy**.

Theme

Together Through the Year

This Year

Club Fair

Back to School Night

Exhibition Night

Karaoke Night

E-waste Drive

Book Fair

Khanival

Rubik's Cube Competition

Middle School Dance

10th Year Anniversary Gala

Holidays

Pi Day

Talent Show

Community Service Projects

Field Trips

Intersession

Prom

Community Service

Stepping Up Day

Moving Up Day

Senior Dinner

Graduation



Celebrating Events & Traditions

Our school traditions bring together students, parents, and families to celebrate the unique spirit of our community. From fun events like Karaoke Night to exciting activities like Pi Day, these traditions offer students the chance to explore their passions while creating lasting memories with their peers and families. Whether through family-friendly gatherings, community service projects, or milestone celebrations, these moments strengthen our bonds and foster a culture of growth, connection, and shared achievement across all ages.

A new annual end-of-year charity concert was launched this year during Upper School's Exhibition Night. Open to all attendees, the event welcomed anyone with musical experience—including students, parents, and faculty—to perform. Funds raised were donated to a charity chosen by the performers. The concert provided a calm, relaxing atmosphere and a meaningful way to close out the school year.

A Night to Remember, A Year to Celebrate

Thanks to the incredible generosity and spirit of our school community, we've raised over \$592,601 for this year's Annual Fund — which exceeded our \$500K goal! This remarkable achievement is more than a number; it's a testament to your belief in our mission and your commitment to creating an innovative learning environment where students can grow and thrive.

A huge part of this success came from our unforgettable Gala. From the thoughtfully curated baskets to the beautiful student artwork — the evening was full of warmth, generosity, and shared purpose. Guests enjoyed an incredible dinner, joyful community, and an exciting auction, all in support of something greater than ourselves.

At KLS, we strive to reimagine what's possible in education. Your support helps us continue to refine and evolve our educational model, empowering students to be curious, adaptable, and purposeful learners. Every gift strengthens our ability to provide transformative



experiences — and we are deeply grateful for your partnership in this important work.

To every donor, bidder, and supporter: thank you. We're honored, inspired, and so close to the finish line — and we couldn't have done it without you.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Cindy Chu

Director of Business Operations & People





As we wrap up the year, we're already **looking ahead—planning, dreaming, and building the future of learning** at Khan Lab School. With bold ideas and a shared vision, we're shaping what's next for our students and our community.

Theme

Future In Focus at KLS

TK-5th



Dear Lower School Families,

As I reflect on my first year as Lower School Director, I'm filled with gratitude—for our students, teachers, and families who made this year so meaningful.

It's been a year of growth, courage, and connection. We welcomed new students, launched new ideas, learned from mistakes, and celebrated successes—together. From joyful moments on the playground to breakthroughs in the classroom, each interaction added to the heartbeat of our community.

Our students are the reason we're here. Their curiosity, kindness, and resilience inspire us daily and remind us that school is about more than knowledge—it's about wonder, laughter, and becoming who you are.

Our teachers bring intention, compassion, and brilliance to each day. Our families are true partners, helping bridge home and school in ways that matter deeply.

I can't wait to see what's next. Here's to the joy of learning, the power of community, and the beauty of doing school differently.

Warmly,

Joni Quintal

Lower School Director



6-8th

Dear Middle School Families,

As I reflect on my first year at KLS, I'm amazed by all we've accomplished together. In just nine months, we launched an entirely new Middle School program and began building a culture distinct from both the Lower and Upper Schools.

I'm especially grateful to our students, who embraced new experiences with enthusiasm—forming friendships, stepping into leadership roles, and growing as athletes, writers, speakers, and more. They tackled ethical debates, wrote original poetry and books, authored a thorough voter's guide, excelled in math competitions, led community meetings, camped under the stars, and traveled to Washington, D.C.

I'm also thankful for our dedicated faculty, who created an engaging academic experience while supporting students through clubs, field trips, and community events. And thank you to our families—for your trust, your time, and your generous support throughout the year.

I look forward to another inspiring year ahead as we welcome our new sixth graders to the Villa Campus.

Warmly,
Natasha McKeown
Middle School Director



9-12th

Dear Upper School Families,

In the months between the end of one year, and the beginning of another, I've been reflecting on all that our Upper School students have accomplished—academically, personally, and as members of our community. This year offered opportunities for deep learning, independent projects, internships, and meaningful work that extended far beyond the classroom. Students stepped up as leaders, pursued their interests with intention, and helped shape a culture of curiosity, responsibility, and care. Collaborating with KLS students on projects that have a lasting impact continues to be the highlight of my work as the Upper School Director.

We also saw the return of beloved traditions — Intersession, Community Meeting, international travel, and reflective moments that helped students connect with each other and with the broader school community. These experiences remind us that learning is both an intellectual and deeply human journey.

To our families: thank you for walking the path alongside us. Your support helped students navigate challenges, celebrate growth, and continue showing up with heart and integrity. We're proud of how far they've come—and excited for what lies ahead.

Warmly,
Laura Khanna (Haney)
Upper School Director



khanlabschool.org

650-489-0071

Lower School (TK-5)

Palo Alto Campus:

3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Middle School (6-8) and Upper School (9-12)

Mountain View Campus:

1200 Villa Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

Admissions Team

admissions@khanlabschool.org or 650-557-3334